

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04184 250236Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /087 W

----- 110998

R 250143Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3597

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SN

SUBJ: PRC OIL FOR SINGAPORE REFINERY

REF: SINGAPORE 2886

1. SINGAPORE PETROLEUM COMPANY (SPC) PRESIDENT GEORGE M. WATTERS (SEE REFTEL FOR COMPANY BACKGROUND) INFORMS US THAT ON OR AROUND SEPT 8 HIS FIRM WAS CONTACTED BY THE HONG KONG-BASED CHINA RESOURCES COMPANY, WHICH REPRESENTS THE PRC ON OIL MATTERS. THEY PROPOSED THAT SPC PROCESS 10,000 BARRELS CRUDE OIL PER DAY. CHINA RESOURCES COMPANY WOULD TAKE DELIVERY OF THE PROCESSED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN SINGAPORE. REALIZING THAT THESE PRODUCTS COULD POSSIBLY WIND UP IN VIETNAM, WATTERS REPLIED IN EFFECT BY STALLING CHINA RESOURCES. HE REQUESTED THAT SAMPLES OF THE CRUDE TO BE PROCESSED BE FORWARDED FOR EXAMINATION BY SPC. THIS, WATTERS ESTIMATES, SHOULD TAKE SOME TWO WEEKS.

2. IN THE INTERIM, WATTERS HAS APPROACHED THE EMBASSY FOR GUIDANCE. ON THE ONE HAND, SPC IS AWARE OF USG POLICY OF PROMOTING TRADE WITH PRC. AT THE SAME TIME, SPC DOES NOT WANT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 04184 250236Z

TO RUN AFOUL OF THE TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT. THEREFORE,

SPC SEEKS GUIDANCE ON THE PROPOSED DEAL SOONEST.

3. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE WE WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL QUERIES ON THIS SORT OF DEAL. WATTERS STATES THAT OTHER SINGAPORE REFINERIES SUCH AS MOBIL AND SHELL HAVE ALSO BEEN APPROACHED TO PROCESS PRC CRUDE OIL. AS SINGAPORE REFINERIES ARE RUNNING AT ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF CAPACITY, THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE INTERESTED IN REFINING CHINESE CRUDE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE THAT EMBASSY CAN FURNISH TO SPC. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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